



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sendoff planned for 200 members of Air Guard's 115th Fighter Wing

Senior Wisconsin National Guard officers will participate in sendoff ceremonies Tuesday, Nov. 30, for members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing. The unit is located at Truax Field, Dane County Regional Airport, Madison. About 200 unit members will deploy overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This will raise the number of the 115th Fighter Wing's deployed members to approximately 400 of the unit's 1,080 members.

This deployment is a regularly scheduled United States Air Force contingency rotation. Deploying members will serve as part of a scheduled 45-day rotation. Other 115th Fighter Wing members are currently serving tours varying from 45 to 120 days in length.

With this new deployment of 115th Fighter Wing airmen, the Wisconsin National Guard will have nearly 2,000 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Although more than 50 percent of the Wisconsin Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty in some capacity since September 11, 2001, most have completed their missions and nearly 7,800 are currently available to provide civil support here in Wisconsin, if required.

Details of the sendoff event for the 115th Fighter Wing are:

Time: 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2004.

Place: Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, 2400 Wright Street, Madison.

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Expected Participants: Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, the adjutant general of Wisconsin; Maj. Gen. Fred Sloan, deputy adjutant general; and Col. Joe Brandemuehl, 115th Fighter Wing commander.

Music will be provided by a brass quintet from the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

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EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: This sendoff ceremony is open to the news media. We expect to have about 200 deploying unit members and their families, in addition to senior military officials.

The ceremony is expected to last approximately 15 minutes, with most participants available to the media for approximately 20 minutes afterward. Airmen and families will also be available, subject to their willingness to be interviewed.

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